

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Cr. No. 05-10136-RGS
:
:
V. : Courtroom No. 21
: 1 Courthouse Way
: Boston, MA 02210
MARK NUTTER : 2:30 p.m., Wednesday
----- February 13, 2008

Sentencing

Before: THE HONORABLE RICHARD G. STEARNS,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

William Connolly and James Dowden,
Assistant United States Attorneys,
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200, Boston, MA 02210-3002,
on behalf of the Government.

Law Office of Stephen J. Weymouth,
(by Stephen J. Weymouth, Esquire),
65a Atlantic Avenue - Suite 3, Boston, MA 02110,
on behalf of the Defendant.

Marie L. Cloonan
Federal Court Reporter
1 Courthouse Way - Room 7200
Boston, MA 02210- 617-439-7086
Mechanical Steno - Transcript by Computer

1 THE CLERK: This is United States of
2 America versus Mark Nutter, Criminal No. 05-10136.

3 Would counsel please identify themselves for
4 the record.

5 MR. CONNOLLY: Good afternoon, your Honor.
6 William Connolly for the government.

7 MR. DOWDEN: Good afternoon, your Honor.
8 James Dowden on behalf of the United States.

9 MR. WEYMOUTH: Good afternoon your Honor.
10 Stephen Weymouth for Mr. Nutter.

11 THE COURT: I assume all counsel have had the
12 benefit of the presentence report prepared by the
13 Probation Office.

14 MR. WEYMOUTH: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Connolly, it seemed to me that
16 the guidelines most relevant in this case, and the
17 facts, as I understand it, there are two mandatory
18 minimum sentences that the statutes impose?

19 MR. CONNOLLY: That's correct, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: If you wish to, if there is any
21 reason to address the guidelines, I'll hear you on
22 that. But I'm more interested in the government's
23 recommendation as to disposition.

24 MR. CONNOLLY: No, the government doesn't need
25 to be heard on the guidelines, your Honor.

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 MR. CONNOLLY: Your Honor, I think that it is
3 clear from the presentence report, it's clear from the
4 statutes, and it's clear from the case law, specifically
5 United States versus Patel, that, given the way the
6 case is charged, the five-year minimum mandatory
7 sentence applicable to Count 1 -- I should reverse
8 this. The ten-year minimum mandatory applicable to
9 Count 5 must be run on and after the five-year minimum
10 mandatory applicable to Count 1, which results in a
11 cumulative sentence of 15 years.

12 The government would also point out that there
13 is mandatory restitution, regardless of the defendant's
14 ability to pay, in the amount of \$242,805.13.

15 THE COURT: So, the government is recommending
16 the 180 months, if my math is correct.

17 MR. CONNOLLY: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT. Mr. Weymouth?

19 I'm not sure that the law leaves me an
20 alternative.

21 MR. WEYMOUTH: I was only going to add -- if
22 you looked at the presentence report -- I know you have,
23 Judge -- you learned a lot about Mr. Nutter during the
24 course of the trial. His family is here, today. Five
25 children, two grandchildren.

1 I understand what the law is. I can file a
2 motion to -- I think that the Count 5 -- the verdict of
3 the jury was pretty clear as to all five counts. If the
4 Court has any way, it can find any way not to impose
5 that ten-year mandatory minimum on and after, it seems
6 to me, and I understand the Court really doesn't have
7 much discretion on these two counts, but, obviously, if
8 you look at 18 3553, the Court is asked to impose a
9 sentence that's not greater than necessary to satisfy
10 the obligations set forth in subparagraph 2 of that
11 particular statute.

12 You know, Mark Nutter is in his mid forties,
13 life-long resident of Massachusetts, five children, two
14 grandchildren, married for a very large number of years,
15 a very hard-working man.

16 Graduate from a couple of different vocational
17 and trade schools. An expert in home heating and air
18 conditioning, HVAC. Worked for several different
19 companies during the course of his life and for almost
20 ten years had his own business. Lived on the Cape and
21 raised his family on the Cape. He worked very hard to
22 provide for his family.

23 I'd ask the Court to not impose the ten-year
24 mandatory minimum sentence and just to give Mr. Nutter
25 the five years that's required by law, the mandatory 60

1 months on Count 1. That is a sentence that is, I think,
2 fair to Mr. Nutter. It's enough to satisfy the
3 obligations and the requirements of that sentencing.
4 It's all set forth in 18 3553.

5 Even five years for Mark Nutter is going to be
6 a long period of time to be away from his family. My
7 understanding is that except for a part-time position of
8 Valerie Nutter, Mr. Nutter has been the main provider
9 and breadwinner for his family for all of these years.

10 If there is anything the Court can do not to
11 impose that mandatory ten-year sentence on and after, I
12 would ask the Court to consider doing that and give
13 Mr. Nutter the 60 months as required in Count 1.

14 Thank you, Judge.

15 Oh, one other comment about the presentence
16 report, Judge. And, I mentioned it to Probation.

17 On Page 2 of the report it mentions aliases,
18 Mark F. Nutter, Jr. And Stephen F. -- S. Nutter.
19 There's never been an allegation that Mr. Nutter has
20 ever used an alias throughout any course of his dealings
21 in his life, adult life. So, I just think that may be
22 terminology that appears there, and I just wanted to be
23 clear. Mr. Nutter had pointed that out to me as well.

24 And, as the Court knows, Mr. Nutter has a
25 relatively minor criminal record, stemming back to the

1 last ten or 15 years, nothing along the lines of what we
2 have in this particular case, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Any objection to striking the
4 aliases?

5 THE PROBATION OFFICER: I can change the word,
6 your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Connolly, do you have any
8 response?

9 MR. CONNOLLY: No, I don't, your Honor.

10 May I speak for a moment with Mr. Weymouth?

11 THE COURT: Yes.

12 (Discussion off the record between
13 Mr. Connolly and Mr. Weymouth.)

14 MR. WEYMOUTH: Judge, before you pronounce
15 sentence, may I just make another comment? I want to be
16 sure that I have protected -- I will not be representing
17 Mr. Nutter on appeal and I want to make sure that the
18 appellate record is protected.

19 And, I appreciate Mr. Connolly -- as the Court
20 knows, at the conclusion of the government's case, and
21 at the conclusion of all the evidence, I did file a Rule
22 29, a Motion for Judgment of Acquittal. I basically
23 waived argument as far as Counts 1 through 4 were
24 concerned, but did talk to the Court about Count 5. We
25 talked about it in your chambers -- we talked about it

1 here, in the courtroom -- that if there does seem to be
2 some duplicitousness, if you will, between and with and
3 among Count 1 and Count 5. There's the multiplicity of
4 almost similar elements almost put in a different way.
5 And, I know there's a First Circuit opinion out where
6 there's a concurring opinion -- it wasn't a holding of
7 the Court -- that does raise that issue. And, I just
8 want to be sure -- I hope the Court will help me -- that
9 I have preserved that issue properly for Mr. Nutter's
10 appellate counsel to review and that perhaps the Count
11 5, the verdict of the jury, could be set aside as being
12 duplicitous of the verdict that was rendered in Count 1.
13 That, of course, then, would eliminate the ten-year
14 mandatory minimum sentence that Mr. Nutter faces at this
15 point. So, I think I raised it in the Rule 29. I think
16 I preserved it during my argument at the close of all
17 the evidence and the close of the government's case. I
18 just wanted to put that back on the record if that's an
19 issue that could very well be brought by Mr. Nutter's
20 appellate counsel to the attention of the United States
21 Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

22 THE COURT: For the record, I find that you
23 did preserve the issue with respect to Count 5. And, I
24 do think it's an issue that the Court of Appeals may
25 well want to examine in the circumstances of this case.

1 As I've indicated before, I found circumstances that
2 does imply a release pending a sentencing, but there was
3 going to be prison time.

4 Were it not for the constraint of mandatory
5 minimum sentence, there would be a prison sentence, but
6 not 180 months, to be quite honest about that. I'm not
7 condoning what Mr. Nutter did. It's a serious crime.
8 But, in his circumstances, 180 months seems to me to be
9 a sentence that is more than punishment that the terms
10 require. But, the Court of Appeals can address that
11 issue. As the trial judge, I have to follow the law.

12 MR. WEYMOUTH: Thank you your Honor. I
13 appreciate that. That issue has been preserved for
14 appellate review. Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Nutter, would you like to be
16 heard? You're not required to speak.

17 (Pause.)

18 MR. WEYMOUTH: I think he'd like to, but I
19 think he's just a little too emotional at this point,
20 Judge, and would prefer not to speak.

21 THE COURT: Mr. Nutter, if you would stand,
22 please.

23 Now, pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of
24 1984, and considering the sentencing factors enumerated
25 in 18 United States Code Section 3553(a), it's the

1 judgment of the Court that you be committed to the
2 custody of the Bureau of Prisons for a term of 180
3 months. This term will consist of terms of 60 months in
4 Counts 1 through 4 of the conviction to serve
5 concurrently and the term of 120 months on Count 5 to be
6 served consecutively with the terms imposed on Counts 1
7 through 4.

8 The Court will make a judicial recommendation
9 that you be designated to an institution at Fort Devens
10 if that's possible, as requested.

11 You mention that the security in the Bureau of
12 Prisons does not afford an appropriate setting for your
13 physical health, including any lymphoma diagnosis or
14 related issues.

15 On release from custody you will be placed on
16 supervised release for a term of two years. This term
17 will run concurrently on each count.

18 Within 72 hours of your release from custody
19 of the Bureau of Prisons, you will report in person to
20 the district to which you are released.

21 It is further ordered that you make
22 restitution to the Andover Companies in the amount of
23 \$242,075.13. The restitution shall be paid immediately
24 or according to a court-ordered repayment scheudle.
25 Payments will be made to the clerk of the United States

1 District Court for the benefit of the Andover Companies.

2 You will notify the United States Attorney for
3 this district within 30 days of any change in mailing
4 or residence address that occurs on any portion of the
5 restitution that remains in the case. I will not impose
6 a fine given the restitution order in this case.

7 While on supervised release, you are to comply
8 with the following terms and conditions: You will not
9 commit any federal, state or local crime or illegally
10 possess a controlled substance. The Court will suspend
11 drug-testing on its determination that you pose little,
12 if any, risk for future substance abuse.

13 You are required to submit for collection of a
14 DNA sample as directed by the Probation Office.

15 You will comply with the standard conditions
16 that have been adopted by the Court and described in
17 United States Sentencing Guidelines, Section 5B1.3C.
18 These will be incorporated in the judgment itself.

19 You are prohibited from possessing a firearm,
20 destructive device, or other dangerous weapon.

21 You will pay the balance of the restitution
22 according to the Court-ordered repayment schedule if
23 restitution is not paid in full.

24 You are prohibited from incurring any credit
25 charges or personal lines of credit without the approval

1 of the Probation Office while any financial obligations
2 remain outstanding.

3 You are to provide the Probation Office access
4 to any requested financial information which may be
5 shared with the financial litigation unit of the United
6 States Attorney's Office.

7 You are further ordered that you pay to the
8 United States a special assessment of \$500. That will
9 be due immediately.

10 Do counsel detect any technical errors in the
11 sentencing as dictated?

12 MR. CONNOLLY: No, your Honor.

13 MR. WEYMOUTH: No, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: As indicated, the Court has
15 allowed the motion for a judicial recommendation as to
16 the place of confinement. Motion for release pending
17 appeal is denied. Consequently, motion for permission
18 to self-report is also denied.

19 The clerk will advise the defendant of his
20 right of appeal.

21 THE CLERK: Mr. Nutter, you do have the right
22 to file a notice of appeal in this case. If you do wish
23 to file that notice of appeal, you must file it within
24 ten days from the date that I enter the judgment.

25 If you cannot afford an attorney to file that

1 notice of appeal on your behalf, you may request me to
2 do it and I'll file it in the Clerk's Office for you.

3 THE COURT: Mr. Nutter, I wish you well. I
4 don't excuse what you did. The case may illustrate how
5 uncompromising mandatory sentences can be or have been.
6 If it were my discretion, it would be a lesser
7 sentence. There'd be a sentence, but a lesser
8 sentence. But, I want you to understand, unless the
9 Court of Appeals gives a different instruction, I have
10 no choice but to follow the law. It is my duty.

11 Again, I thank all counsel.

12 (Whereupon the hearing was concluded at
13 2:50 p.m.)
14

15 CERTIFICATE

16 I, Marie L. Cloonan, Official Reporter of the
17 United States District Court, do hereby certify that the
18 foregoing transcript, from Page 1 to Page 12, constitutes
19 to the best of my skill and ability a true and accurate
20 transcription of my stenotype notes taken in the matter of
21 Criminal No. 05-10136-RGS, United States of America v.
22 Mark Nutter.

23 \s\
24 -----
25 Marie L. Cloonan

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25